



## Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins



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### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY  
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



**SUNDAY:**  
**MARRYBELL MADURO**  
SINGER  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**MONDAY:**  
**ANGELA FLORES**  
VIOLINIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**TUESDAY:**  
**JEAN PAUL**  
SAXOPHONIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**WEDNESDAY:**  
**EDDIE KROON**  
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm

**MAILLEYN ALVARADO**  
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

**KARAOKE** 9:00 - 11:00pm

**THURSDAY:**  
**MARRYBELL MADURO**  
SINGER  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**FRIDAY:**  
**RICKY THOMAS**  
GUITARIST  
7:00 - 9:00pm

**SATURDAY:**  
**EDDIE KROON**  
SINGER  
4:00 - 6:00pm

**ANGELA FLORES**  
VIOLINIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

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# Trump nominees should 'steer clear' of undermining polio vaccine, McConnell says

By MORIAH BALINGIT

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, who had polio as a child, says any of President-elect Donald Trump's nominees seeking Senate confirmation should "steer clear" of efforts to discredit the polio vaccine. "Efforts to undermine public confidence in proven cures are not just uninformed — they're dangerous," McConnell said in a statement Friday. "Anyone seeking the Senate's consent to serve in the incoming Administration would do well to steer clear of even the appearance of association with such efforts."

The 82-year-old lawmaker's statement appeared to be



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., left, wears a bandage on his face and wrist as he walks to cast a vote on the Senate floor after falling during a luncheon on Capitol Hill, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

directed at Trump's pick for health secretary, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., after a report that one of his advisers filed a petition to revoke approval for the polio vaccine in 2022. That vaccine is widely considered to have halted the disease in most parts of the world.

McConnell's words were a sign that Kennedy, who has long advanced the debunked idea that vaccines cause autism, could face some resistance in the soon-to-be GOP-controlled Senate.

"Mr. Kennedy believes the Polio Vaccine should be available to the public and thoroughly and properly studied," said Katie Miller, the transition spokeswoman for Kennedy, in response to questions.

The New York Times reported that the petition was filed by a lawyer now helping Kennedy select candidates for federal health positions in the incoming administration. Any individual or company can file a petition with the Food and Drug Administration, which typically fields hundreds of requests at any time relating to various food, drug and medical issues. Most petitions are denied, but the FDA is required to respond to each one in writing.

Vaccines have been proven to be safe and effective in laboratory testing and in real-world use in hundreds of millions of people over decades — they are considered among the most effective public health measures in history.

McConnell contracted polio at 2 years old but survived because of "the miraculous combination of modern medicine and a mother's love," according to the statement. He praised the "saving power" of the polio vaccine for the "millions who came after me."

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said in a post on X that it was "outrageous and dangerous for people in the Trump Transition to try and get rid of the polio vaccine that has virtually eradicated polio in America and saved millions

of lives.

He said Kennedy should clarify his own position on it. Trump announced last month his selection of Kennedy, saying Kennedy would work to protect Americans "from harmful chemicals, pollutants, pesticides, pharmaceutical products, and food additives."

But that pick was met with alarm from scientists and public health officials, who fear Kennedy would unwind lifesaving public health initiatives such as vaccines.

Kennedy has pushed other conspiracy theories regarding vaccines, such as that COVID-19 could have been "ethnically targeted" to spare Ashkenazi Jews and Chinese people, comments he later said were taken out of context. He has repeatedly brought up the Holocaust when discussing vaccines and public health mandates.

Kennedy said he plans to remake the Department of Health and Human Services, an agency with sprawling reach and a \$1.3 trillion budget, if he is approved. He has suggested the FDA is beholden to "big pharma," and his anti-vaccine nonprofit has called on it to stop using COVID-19 vaccines. During the COVID-19 epidemic, his nonprofit group, Children's Health Defense, petitioned the FDA to halt the use of all COVID vaccines. The group has alleged that the FDA is beholden to "big pharma" because it receives much of its budget from industry fees and some employees who have departed the agency have gone on to work for drug-makers.

Children's Health Defense currently has a lawsuit pending against a number of news organizations, among them The Associated Press, accusing them of violating antitrust laws by taking action to identify misinformation, including about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines. Kennedy took leave from the group when he announced his run for president but is listed as one of its attorneys in the lawsuit. □

**Live Entertainment at 8PM**

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<p><b>WED Cultural Dance Show</b></p>	<p><b>THU Acrobatic Show</b></p>
<p><b>SUN Violin Show</b></p>	<p><b>Nightly Watershow 7:30pm - 8:30pm - 9:30pm</b></p>

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# U.S. agencies should use advanced technology to identify mysterious drones, Schumer says

By **BIANCA VÁZQUEZ TONESS**  
and **DAVE COLLINS**  
**Associated Press**

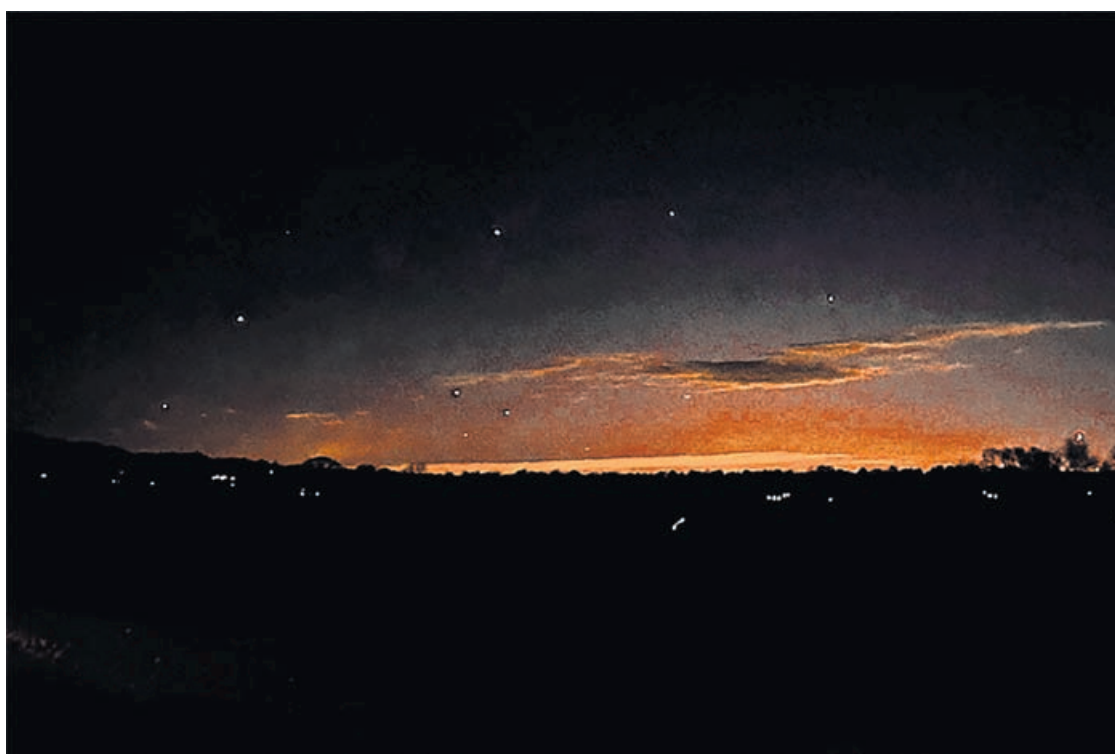
**BOSTON (AP)** — After weeks of fear and bewilderment about the drones buzzing over parts of New York and New Jersey, elected officials are urging action to identify and stop the mysterious flights.

"There's a lot of us who are pretty frustrated right now," Rep. Jim Himes, D-Conn., the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said on "Fox News Sunday."

"'We don't know' is not a good enough answer," he said.

National security officials have said the drones don't appear to be a sign of foreign interference or a public safety threat. But because they can't say with certainty who is responsible for the sudden swarms of drones over parts of New Jersey, New York and other eastern parts of the U.S. — or how they can be stopped — has led leaders of both political parties to demand better technology and powers to deal with the drones.

Sen. Chuck Schumer called Sunday for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to deploy better drone-tracking technology to identify the drones and their operators. "New Yorkers have tremendous questions about it," Schumer, the Senate Majority leader, told reporters about



This photo provided by Trisha Bushey shows the evening sky and points of light near in Lebanon Township, N.J., on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024.

the drone sightings. "We are going to get the answers for them."

The federal government did little to answer those questions in its own media briefings Sunday morning. "There's no question that people are seeing drones," U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told ABC's George Stephanopoulos. "But I want to assure the American public that we are on it. We are working in close coordination with state and local authorities."

Some of the drones reported above parts of New York and New Jersey have turned out

to be "manned aircraft that are commonly mistaken for drones," Mayorkas said. "We know of no foreign involvement with respect to the sightings in the Northeast. And we are vigilant in investigating this matter."

Last year, federal aviation rules began requiring certain drones to broadcast their remote identification, including the location of their operators. It's not clear whether that information has been used to determine who is behind the drones plaguing locations over New York and New Jersey. Mayorkas' office didn't respond to ques-

tions about whether they've been able to identify drones using this capability.

Schumer wants the federal government to use a recently declassified radio wave technology in New York and New Jersey.

The radio wave detector can be attached to a drone or airplane and can determine whether another flying object is a bird or a drone, read its electronic registration, and follow it back to its landing place. Schumer said state and local authorities do not have the authority to track drones.

On Sunday, New York Gov.

Kathy Hochul said federal officials were sending a drone detection system to the state.

"This system will support state and federal law enforcement in their investigations," Hochul said in a statement. The governor did not immediately provide additional details, including where the system will be deployed.

Dozens of mysterious nighttime flights started last month over parts of New Jersey, raising concerns among residents and officials. Part of the worry stems from the flying objects initially being spotted near the Picatinny Arsenal, a U.S. military research and manufacturing facility and over President-elect Donald Trump's golf course in Bedminster. Drones are legal in New Jersey for recreational and commercial use, but they are subject to local and Federal Aviation Administration regulations and flight restrictions. Operators must be FAA certified. Drones are now being reported all along the northern East Coast, with suspicious sightings in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Virginia, according to news reports.

Certain agencies within the Department of Homeland Security have the power to "incapacitate" drones, Mayorkas said Sunday. "But we need those authorities expanded," he said. □

Associated Press

## California DMV apologizes for license plate that some say mocks Oct. 7 attack on Israel

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The California Department of Motor Vehicles has apologized for an "unacceptable and disturbing" personalized truck license plate that the agency said displayed hate speech related to the Oct. 7 attack on Israel. But a relative of the vehicle's owner said the whole controversy was an unfortunate misunderstanding.

A photo posted on X by the watchdog group StopAntisemitism showed a license plate on a Tesla Cybertruck near Los Angeles that read "LOLOCT7." LOL is an abbreviation for "laugh out loud."

The group said the plate seemed to reference Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas militants attacked Israel, killing hundreds of people and prompting an Israeli retaliation against Palestinians in Gaza.

But the son of the truck's owner told ABC 7 in Los Angeles that the personalized plate was not a reference to the Oct. 7 attack at all. He said it referred to the owner, who is a Filipino grandfather. "LOLO" means grandfather in Tagalog, "CT" refers to the Cybertruck, while 7 represents the owner's seven children, ac-

cording to the news station. The DMV issued a statement Thursday, saying the department is "taking swift action to recall these shocking plates, and we will immediately strengthen our internal review process to ensure such an egregious oversight never happens again."

A spokesperson for the DMV told the Los Angeles Times the license plate should not have passed the review process and, after it was flagged on social media, many people who alerted the department found it offensive.



In this April 9, 2019 file photo is the California Department of Motor Vehicles office in the Arleta neighborhood of Los Angeles.  
Associated Press

"The use of hateful language is not only a clear violation of our policies but also a violation of our core values to proudly serve the public and ensure safe and welcoming roadways," the DMV statement said.

The DMV said the license plate owner will be notified about the recall of their license plate because of the language. The owner of the vehicle has the right to appeal the department's decision. □



# Storms across U.S. bring heavy snow, dangerous ice and a tornado in California

By JOSH FUNK

Associated Press

**OMAHA, Neb. (AP)** — A tornado near a mall in central California swept up cars, uprooted trees and sent several people to the hospital. In San Francisco, authorities issued the first-ever tornado warning.

Elsewhere, inclement weather plagued areas of the U.S., with dangerous conditions including heavy snow in upstate New York, a major ice storm in Midwest states and severe weather warnings around Lake Tahoe.

The ice storm beginning Friday evening created treacherous driving conditions across Iowa and eastern Nebraska on Friday and into Saturday and prompted temporary closures of Interstate 80 after numerous cars and trucks slid off the road. In upstate New York, more than 33 inches (84 centimeters) was reported near Orchard Park, which is often a landing point for lake-effect snow.

On Saturday, a tornado touched down around 1:40 p.m. near a shopping mall in Scotts Valley, California, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) south of San Francisco. The tornado overturned cars and toppled trees and utility poles, the National Weather Service said. The Scotts Val-



This image, provided by the Livermore Police Dept. shows flooding near the intersection of Murrieta Blvd. and Stanley Blvd. during a storm Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024 in Livermore, Calif.

Associated Press

ley Police Department said several people were injured and taken to hospitals.

In San Francisco, some trees toppled onto cars and streets and damaged roofs. The damage was due to 80-mph (130-kph) straight-line winds, not a tornado, weather service meteorologist Dalton Behringer said Sunday.

Roger Gass, a meteorologist in the weather service's office in Monterey, California, said the warning of a possible tornado in San Francisco was a first for the city, noting

an advanced alert did not go out before the last tornado struck nearly 20 years ago.

"I would guess there wasn't a clear signature on radar for a warning in 2005," said Gass, who was not there at the time.

The fast-moving storm prompted warnings for residents to take shelter, but few people have basements in the area.

Heavy snow fell at some Lake Tahoe ski resorts, and a 112-mph (181-kph) gust of wind was recorded at

the Mammoth Mountain resort south of Yosemite National Park, according to the weather service's office in Reno, Nevada. Up to 3 feet (91 centimeters) of snow was forecast for Sierra Nevada mountaintops.

The weekend Tahoe Live music festival at Palisades Tahoe ski resort in California went ahead as planned in spite of a snowstorm Saturday. Lil Wayne and Diplo were scheduled to perform Sunday, the festival's website said. The resort said it has received 3.5 feet (1 me-

ter) of snow since Friday. An avalanche warning was in effect at least until Monday morning in the area.

Interstate 80 was closed along an 80-mile (130-kilometer) stretch from Applegate, California, to the Nevada line just west of Reno on Saturday. The California Highway Patrol reopened the road in the afternoon for passenger vehicles with chains or four-wheel drive and snow tires.

The severe weather in the Midwest resulted in at least one death. The Washington County Sheriff's office in Nebraska said a 57-year-old woman died after she lost control of her pickup on Highway 30 near Arlington and hit an oncoming truck. The other driver sustained minor injuries.

Businesses announced plans to open late Saturday as temperatures rose high enough in the afternoon to melt the ice in most places. "Luckily some warmer air is moving in behind this to make it temporary," said Dave Cousins, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service's office in Davenport, Iowa.

Tens of thousands of people in western Washington state lost electricity Saturday as the system delivered rain and gusty winds, local news outlets reported. □

## Flight takes kids to visit Santa at North Pole scene in transformed Denver airport hangar

By THOMAS PEIPERT and BECKY BOHRER

Associated Press

**DENVER (AP)** — Dozens of kids cheered on a festively decked-out plane in Denver on Saturday when the pilot announced their destination for the day: the North Pole.

More than 100 children, some of whom have serious health issues, were then taken on a roughly 45-minute flight near the city before landing back at Denver International Airport and being towed to a hangar transformed by United Airlines employees and volunteers into the North Pole.

Streamers, paper snowflakes and tufts of cotton resembling feathery snow dotted the plane and seats. Flight personnel paraded a bubble machine up and down the aisle to shouts of "bubbles, bubbles, bubbles" from the excited children. Holiday songs played in the background and there were apple snacks and juice for all.

Before landing, the children were asked to close their window shades. When they opened, the kids were met by the sight of a waiting Santa and Mrs. Claus and a host of elves. An ice cream truck was on hand and the

children received gifts. Bryce Bosley, 6, was tickled to see Santa and all the North Pole had to offer.

"The North Pole is fun because there's games, food, and all the activities are really fun," he said.

United Capt. Bob Zimmermann, the holiday flight's pilot, was struck by the joy and wonder of the youngsters.

"Throughout the year I'll think of the fantasy flight," he said. "When life seems to get tough or I want to complain about something, I remember these kids and the joy and the love and what this feels like, and it just



Dressed in a Grinch costume, a flight attendant entertains passengers during the United Airlines annual "fantasy flight" to a fictional North Pole at Denver International Airport, Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024, in Denver.

Associated Press

keeps my life in perspective."

United partnered with Make-A-Wish Colorado, Girls Inc., Children's Hospi-

tal Colorado and Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome Association to invite Denver-area kids ages 3 to 10 years on the flight. □



# Israel will close its Ireland embassy over Gaza tensions as Palestinian death toll nears 45,000

By WAFAA SHURAF and NATALIE MELZER

Associated Press

**DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP)** — Israel said Sunday it will close its embassy in Ireland as relations deteriorated over the war in Gaza, where Palestinian medical officials said new Israeli airstrikes killed over 46 people including several children.

The decision to close the embassy came in response to what Israel's foreign minister has described as Ireland's "extreme anti-Israel policies." In May, Israel recalled its ambassador to Dublin after Ireland announced, along with Norway, Spain and Slovenia, it would recognize a Palestinian state.

The Irish Cabinet last week decided to formally intervene in South Africa's case against Israel at the International Court of Justice, which accuses Israel of committing genocide in Gaza. Israel denies it.

"We are concerned that a very narrow interpretation of what constitutes genocide leads to a culture of impunity in which the protection of civilians is minimized," said Ireland's foreign affairs minister, Micheal Martin.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar's statement on the embassy closure said "Ireland has crossed every red line in



Israelis protest against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government and call for the release of hostages held in the Gaza Strip by the Hamas militant group, in Tel Aviv, Israel, Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024.

Associated Press

its relations with Israel."

Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris called the decision to close the embassy "deeply regrettable." He added on X: "I utterly reject the assertion that Ireland is anti-Israel. Ireland is pro-peace, pro-human rights and pro-international law."

Israeli strikes in Gaza kill a journalist and children  
Israeli forces continued Sunday to pound Gaza, including the largely isolated north, as the Palestinian death toll in the war approached 45,000.

A large explosion lit up the southern Gaza skyline on Sunday night. An Israeli airstrike hit a school and killed at least 16 people in the southern city of Khan Younis, according to Nasser Hospital, where the bodies were taken. There was no immediate Israeli military statement. In the north, an airstrike hit the Khalil Aweida school in the town of Beit Hanoun and killed at least 15 people, according to nearby Kamal Adwan Hospital where casualties were taken. The dead

included two parents and their daughter and a father and his son, the hospital said. And in Gaza City, at least 17 people including six women and five children were killed in three airstrikes that hit houses sheltering displaced people, according to Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital.

"We woke up to the strike. I woke up with the rubble on top of me," said a bandaged Yahia al-Yazji, who grieved for his wife and daughter. "I found my wife with her head and skull visible, and

my daughter's intestines were gone. My wife was three months pregnant." His hand rested on a body wrapped in a blanket on the floor.

Israel's military in a statement said it struck a "terrorist cell" in Gaza City and a "terrorist meeting point" in the Beit Hanoun area.

Another Israeli airstrike killed a Palestinian journalist working for Al Jazeera, Ahmed al-Lawh, in central Gaza, a hospital and the Qatari-based TV station said.

The strike hit a point for Gaza's civil defense agency in the urban Nuseirat refugee camp, Al-Awda Hospital said. Also killed were three civil defense workers including the local head of the agency, according to al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital. The civil defense is Gaza's main rescue agency and operates under the Hamas-run government.

One of the bodies was covered with an orange work jacket marked "ambulance" in English.

"We, the civil defense, are carrying out humanitarian work like in any country in the world. Why are we being targeted?" said colleague Kerem Al Dalou.

Israel's military said it struck a militant command center embedded in the civil defense offices. □

## Germany warns Assad supporters involved in atrocities in Syria against trying to flee there

**BERLIN (AP)** — Germany's foreign minister is warning anyone involved in atrocities for the ousted Syrian government against seeking refuge in her country, saying they would face "the full force of the law."

Germany has been a major destination for Syrian refugees over the past decade, and several hundred thousand Syrian nationals live there. In rulings since 2021, former Syrian secret police officers already have been convicted in Germany for overseeing or facilitating the abuse of detainees.

"To any of (former President Bashar) Assad's torturers who might be considering fleeing to Germany now, I can only say clearly: We will bring all the regime's henchmen to account for their terrible crimes with the full force of the law," Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock told Sunday's edition of the Bild am Sonntag newspaper.

Baerbock called for international security authorities and intelligence services to work closely together.

Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said Germany is "ex-

tremely vigilant" and pointed to border checks that the country already has put in place on its frontiers as it tries to reduce irregular migration.

She told Bild am Sonntag that "no one who participated in atrocities is safe from prosecution here." She said the convictions already handed down show that Germany pursues such crimes rigorously and should act as a deterrent against people involved in them going there.

More broadly, German officials have stressed that



Germany's Minister for Foreign Affairs Annalena Baerbock attends a plenary session of the 31st Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Ministerial summit, in Ta'Qali, Malta, Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024.

Associated Press

many well-integrated arrivals of recent years will be welcome to stay after the removal of Assad. That was followed by some talk of

Syrians going home, which Chancellor Olaf Scholz acknowledged in a video released Friday "deeply unsettled" them. □



# Venezuelan opposition members in diplomatic compound urge swift actions to secure their safe passage

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)** —

Members of Venezuela's political opposition who have been sheltering for months in the Argentine diplomatic compound in the capital, Caracas, on Saturday detailed their deteriorating living conditions as they sought to grow a sense of urgency among the governments working to secure their safe departure from their home country.

Their comments to reporters via an online news conference came three days after Argentina's government urged the Organization of American States to pressure Venezuela to allow the safe passage of the six members of the opposition living at the ambassador's residence.

The harassment, according to those who spoke to reporters, includes constant surveillance by heavily armed security agents, the interruption of water and electric services, and this week's arrest of a longtime local employee of the Argentine embassy. "We are seeing how the process of violating our basic human rights is accelerating, and it is urgent to be able to stop this situation of control and repression against us, whether psychological or real," said Magalli Meda, campaign manager of op-



**A police patrol car sits parked outside Argentina's embassy where some members of Venezuela's opposition are seeking asylum inside, in Caracas, Venezuela, July 31, 2024, three days after the contested presidential election.**

**Associated Press**

position powerhouse María Corina Machado.

Venezuela's Minister of Interior Diosdado Cabello last week called the group's allegations a "farce."

The government of President Javier Milei in August transferred custody of the diplomatic compound in Caracas to Brazil after Venezuela expelled Argentina's diplomats. The move followed a July presidential election marred by serious fraud allegations and which both President

Nicolás Maduro and the opposition claim to have won. But Maduro revoked Brazil's authorization to guard the facility in September, even though that nation's president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, had attempted to help Venezuela break its political stalemate following the presidential vote.

"The Brazilian Foreign Ministry has made the contacts and the corresponding arrangements," said Pedro Uruchurtu, who along three

other men and two women has lived at the diplomatic facility since March. "We ask Brazil to have a much greater sense of urgency, in this sense it means redoubling efforts and coordination with the region and understanding that this situation can clearly get worse and therefore demands the attention of the entire region." Venezuela's protracted political crisis deepened after the July 28 presidential election. The country's National

Electoral Council, which is stacked with Maduro loyalists, declared him the election winner hours after polls closed. But unlike previous presidential elections, electoral authorities did not provide detailed vote counts. Meanwhile, the opposition, led by Machado, collected tally sheets from 80% of the nation's electronic voting machines, posted them online and said the voting records showed that the faction's candidate, Edmundo González, had won the election with twice as many votes as Maduro.

On Wednesday, Brazil's ambassador to the Organization of American States, Benoni Belli, told country representatives gathered in Washington to address the situation at the diplomatic compound that the safe passage of the opposition members "has been the subject of high-level negotiations" involving Venezuelan and Brazilian officials, including the countries' foreign affairs ministers.

Diplomatic premises are considered foreign soil and "inviolable" under the Vienna treaties and host country law enforcement agencies are not allowed to enter without permission from the ambassador. □



**Nigeria's President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, third from left, first row, poses for a group photo with other West African leaders, prior to the start of the ECOWAS meeting, in Abuja, Nigeria, Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024.**

**Associated Press**

**By CHINEDU ASADU**

**Associated Press**

**ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)** —

West Africa's regional bloc ECOWAS approved Sunday an exit timeline for three coup-hit nations after a nearly yearlong process

of mediation to avert the unprecedented disintegration of the grouping.

In a first in the 15-nation bloc's nearly 50 years of existence, the military juntas of Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso announced in January

## West Africa regional bloc approves exit timeline for 3 coup-hit member states

that they decided to leave ECOWAS, accusing it of "inhumane and irresponsible" coup-related sanctions and of failing to help them solve their internal security crises.

"The authority decides to set the period from 29 January, 2025 to 29 July 2025 as a transitional period and to keep ECOWAS doors open to the three countries during the transition period," ECOWAS Commission President Omar Alieu Touray said in his closing remarks Sunday at the summit of regional heads of state in Nigeria's capital, Abuja.

The three coup-hit countries have largely rebuffed

ECOWAS' efforts to reverse their withdrawal. They have started to consider how to issue travel documents separately from ECOWAS and are forming their own alliance. The one-year notice for their departure is expected to be completed in January.

Touray commended efforts by the bloc's envoys to resolve the crisis. "These efforts underscore your collective commitment to preserving peace and unity in our region," he said.

Bola Tinubu, the president of Nigeria and chairman of ECOWAS, said the challenges faced around the world and in the region test

its ability to work together. "We must not lose sight of our fundamental responsibility, which is to protect our citizens and create an enabling environment where they can prosper," he said. One major benefit of being a member of ECOWAS is visa-free movement to member states, and it is not clear how that could change after the three countries leave the bloc. Asked about such an implication in July, the ECOWAS commission president said: "When you get out of an agreement ... if it is about free trade, free movement of people, the risk of losing those concessions remains." □





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## Infini Reopens: A Story of Resilience, Gratitude, and Renewal

After several challenging days of recovery following the severe flooding that impacted our operations, Infini by Urvin Croes is pleased to announce that we are fully open once again.

Seeing our kitchen flooded was a moment of great concern for our entire team. However, thanks to the unwavering dedication of our staff, the support of our families, friends, suppliers, and the encouraging messages from our community, we found the strength to rebuild, return stronger than ever, and do so in record time.

### A Safer and More Resilient Infini

In response to this unprecedented challenge, we have implemented significant measures to ensure the safety and integrity of our restaurant moving forward. New drainage systems have been installed to effectively manage any potential future flooding, protecting our space from similar incidents.



We have also reinforced our infrastructure, including repairs to the front windows and an updated inspection protocol for critical equipment, creating a safer environment for our guests and staff alike.

These efforts are part of our unwavering commitment to excellence—not just in culinary artistry, but in the overall experience and security we provide to everyone who steps into Infini.

### A New Chapter Begins

This experience has reminded

us of the power of unity and resilience. We are filled with gratitude for each and every one of you who supported us through this journey. We are thrilled to welcome you back to **Infini** with our new **Menu 12**, which our team has worked tirelessly to create. This exciting menu celebrates the art of gastronomy and the rich culinary heritage of Aruba and the Caribbean, all in partnership with our valued local suppliers.

However, we must note that due to the damage sustained, some of our equipment is still out of operation. This temporarily limits our ability to accommodate dietary restrictions, allergies, or preferences with the level of care we usually provide. We will inform you as soon as we are able to offer vegan options or other dietary accommodations once again. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and deeply appreciate your understanding as we continue to improve our op-



erations.

### Reserve Your Experience Today

We are open and ready to welcome you back to rediscover the limitless possibilities of fine dining. Book your table now and be part of this exciting new chapter:

+297 6993982

reservations@infiniaruba.com

Let's create unforgettable moments together once more. □



## Aruba's most family-friendly beaches

**(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when travelling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to travelling parents to list off some of the most family-friendly beaches around the island.**

### Baby Beach in San Nicolas

Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

### Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of

the Pos Chiquito city. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

### Eagle Beach/Palm Beach in the hotel area

Yet another highly popular beach site, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches

for your children to play and build sand castles.

### Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore.

### Palm Island

Ok, this one is technically not a beach, but a must-visit attraction for family fun. This small water park oasis is located further down the Mangel Halto Beach and is reachable by boat. This water park offers 6 hours of fun activities, food, drinks, and a chance to see pink flamingoes up close! □





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## Cocktails with a Story: Caya House Brings a Unique Flavor Experience to Aruba



This season, Caya House invites guests to discover a cocktail menu that blends unique flavors from Latin America and the Caribbean into every drink. Under the direction of mixologist David Posada, each cocktail at Caya House tells a story, designed to take guests on a sensory journey that captures the vibrant essence of the region through every ingredient.

“At Caya, we believe cocktails are more than just drinks. They’re an opportunity to experience the distinctive flavors and aromas of our lands,” says David Posada, mixologist. Each cocktail is crafted with precision, combining modern and traditional techniques with exotic fruits, spices, and artisanal spirits.



Among the menu favorites are:

- **Warawara:** A refreshing mix of Caravella orancello, Sloe gin, pumpkin spice, and banana syrup, served over spear ice. This cocktail evokes the essence of autumn in the tropics.
- **Tu Corazon:** A standout drink with açai-infused cachaca and a hint of raw sugar, topped with a crisp slice of red beet for a unique, earthy finish.
- **Un Recuerdo:** A bold fusion of mezcal with tree tomato, butter infused with parmesan and shiitake, green tea cordial, and green chartreuse. Perfect for those looking for a robust, one-of-a-kind experience.

Caya House also features its signature **Lulada**,



made with Flor de Caña rum infused with lulo, condensed milk, and lime leather—a perfect balance of sweetness and freshness for those seeking a tropical twist.

These cocktails are part of the “Caya Experience,” with a wider variety of options for guests to explore, notes David, highlighting the creativity behind each one. With this unique offering, Caya House continues to stand out as an iconic destination for those in search of authentic Caribbean flavors in Aruba.

**Caya House invites alike to enjoy this innovative cocktail menu in the heart of Palm Beach, Aruba. Each drink is a celebration of Latin-Caribbean culture and flavor!**

## Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals



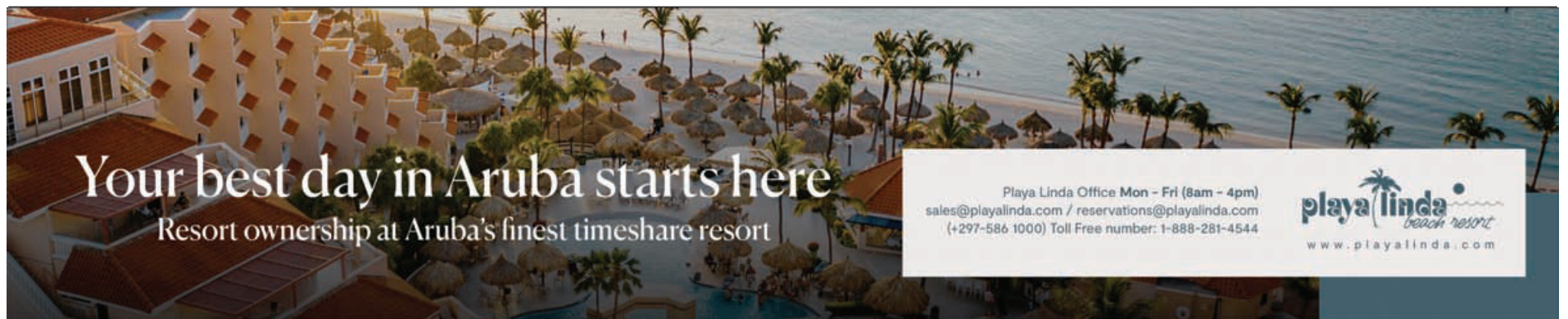
(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that they have to pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light. Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours!





## Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

**According to Etnia Nativa, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.**

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algemesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, The History of Alto Vista by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever

epidemic and since people believed that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water



tank which the locals call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □

## Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

**SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.**

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

### Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find

three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaux of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barbershop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of

artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment.

Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

### The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of vari-

ous art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

### Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □



## Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished

**ST. CRUZ** — The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her



eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

### Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok



national park)

The aforementioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it! □

## Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names

**Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.**

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and

meaning.

### Ayo

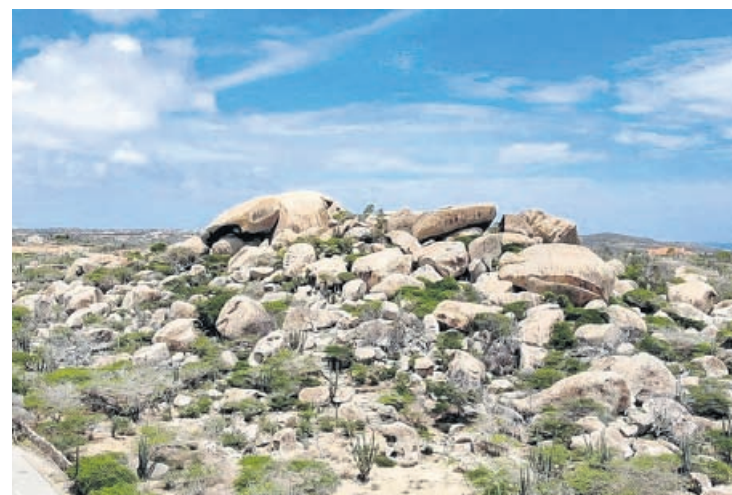
Ajo, or Ayo, is a word with Arawak-Indian origin. A (or Ha) is an Indo-Antillean generalizing word. If you were to change a part of the word "Ayo", namely 'Yo', to 'Yu' and make 'Ayu', it would mean "white."

However, as we now know, the name of the neighborhood is 'Ayo'. The word 'Yo' stands for Yocahu, which is another word for 'creator'

in Arawak/Taino and in the Papiamentu spoken today, 'Ayo' means 'bye'.

At Ayo, you can find some of the most well known rock formations. These formations became a well loved and visited attraction at Aruba that is held in high regards by both tourists and locals alike.

If you'd like to know more about the rock formations at Ayo, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all about its location and his-



tory.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; A.

### Alto Vista

This word combination can be roughly translated to a 'high point of view' and the neighborhood received this name from the Hill.

In the surrounding areas, Domingo Antonia Silvestre built his by his own means the very first chapel or church of Aruba. The walls

of this church were made with rocks but the roof was made of dry corn stalks. The church was inaugurated by father Pablo Algemesi

If you'd like to know more about the Alto Vista Church's beautiful history, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all you need to know about it for when you visit it.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; AV. □





## Did you know about...?

# The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called Did you know about...?, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

### Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

### Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban



artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

### Current design and symbolism 10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

### 25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also

a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

### 50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

### 100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

### 200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

### Extra fact:

the word “florin” supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word “florino”, both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.□

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba





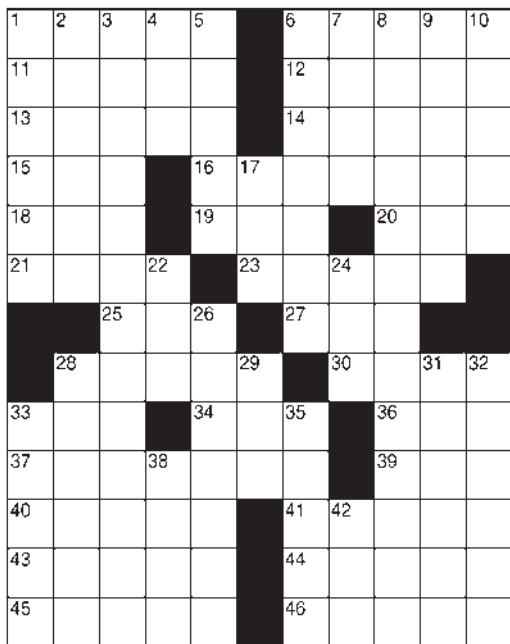
## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 43 Puzzle  
1 "Wheel of Fortune" out  
44 Not rented name out  
6 Croc's cousin  
45 At a close  
46 Pascal of "The Last of Us"  
11 Island ring  
12 Skip a ceremony  
13 Fashion  
14 Drinks  
15 Plop down  
16 Planned  
18 "The Name of the Rose" author  
19 "Platoon" setting  
20 Diet no-no  
21 Postmark part  
23 Accords  
25 Laugh sound  
27 "Well, that's obvious!"  
28 First known asteroid  
30 Porgy's love  
33 Pussy foot  
34 "— the season ..."  
36 Misery  
37 Pain reliever  
39 World Cup cry  
40 Get naked  
41 Lyricist's concern

### DOWN

- 1 Got fresh with  
2 Ancient Greek region  
3 #1 song by Three Dog Night  
4 Completely  
5 Designer Calvin  
6 Fumes  
7 Loads  
8 #1 song by the Carpenters  
9 Verdi works  
10 Stopwatch button  
17 Afternoon break  
22 Anvil's place  
24 New reporter  
26 Entered anew  
28 Ohio city  
29 Confession topic  
31 Fuse together  
32 Handles fashion  
33 Out of  
35 Assure  
38 Seedy bar  
42 Undivided



12-15

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

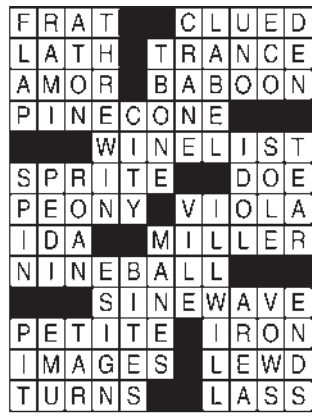
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-15

### CRYPTOQUOTE

DW'L KVH KU WTH ICHZWHLW  
IDUWL PKG XZV IDAH  
PKGCLHFU, WK UKCIDA H.  
UKCIDA HAHCPKBP. — SZPZ  
ZVIHFKG

**Cryptoquote:** CHRISTMAS IS MOST TRULY CHRISTMAS WHEN WE CELEBRATE IT BY GIVING THE LIGHT OF LOVE TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST. — RUTH CARTER STAPLETON

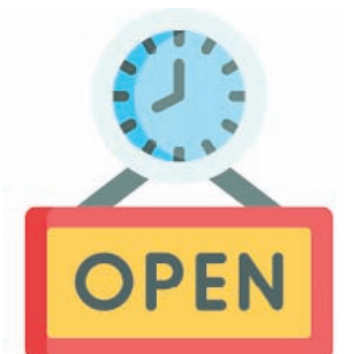


## Cruise ship Schedule: December 16 - 22 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
MON	16	ENCHANTED PRINCESS	08.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	17	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN VIVA	13.00	21.00	I	1
WED	18	NORWEGIAN JEWEL	14.30	21.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
FRI	20	CARNIVAL MIRACLE	09.00	22.00	C	1
SAT	21	STAR CLIPPER	09.00	18.00	I	1
		EXPLORER OF THE SEAS	16.30	****	C	1
		STAR PRIDE	06.00	18.00	B	1
SUN	22	EXPLORER OF THE SEAS - dept.	****	18.00	C	-
		FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E	-

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

### Supermarket hours

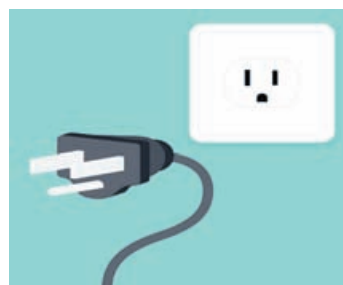


Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

### Electrical power



### Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

### Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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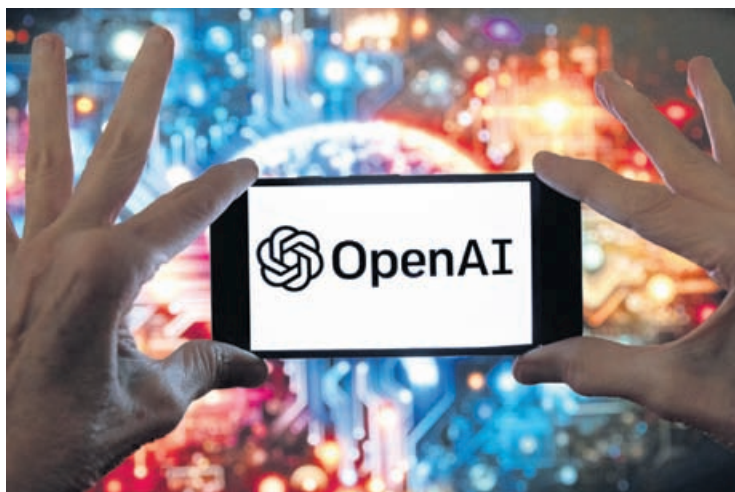
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24/7



# OpenAI's legal battle with Elon Musk reveals internal turmoil over avoiding AI 'dictatorship'



The OpenAI logo is displayed on a cell phone in front of an image generated by ChatGPT's Dall-E text-to-image model, Dec. 8, 2023, in Boston.

By **MATT O'BRIEN**  
AP Technology Writer

A 7-year-old rivalry between tech leaders Elon Musk and Sam Altman over who should run OpenAI and prevent an artificial intelligence "dictatorship" is now heading to a federal judge as Musk seeks to halt the ChatGPT maker's ongoing shift into a for-profit company. Musk, an early OpenAI investor and board member, sued the artificial intelligence company earlier this year alleging it had betrayed its founding aims as a nonprofit research lab benefiting the public good rather than pursuing profits. Musk has since escalated the dispute, adding new claims and asking for a court order that would stop OpenAI's plans to convert itself into a for-profit business more fully. The world's richest man, whose companies include

Associated Press

Tesla, SpaceX and social media platform X, last year started his own rival AI company, xAI. Musk says it faces unfair competition from OpenAI and its close business partner Microsoft, which has supplied the huge computing resources needed to build AI systems such as ChatGPT. "OpenAI and Microsoft together exploiting Musk's donations so they can build a for-profit monopoly, one now specifically targeting xAI, is just too much," says Musk's filing that alleges the companies are violating the terms of Musk's foundational contributions to the charity. OpenAI is filing a response Friday opposing Musk's requested order, saying it would cripple OpenAI's business and mission to the advantage of Musk and his own AI company. A hearing is set for January

before U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers in Oakland.

At the heart of the dispute is a 2017 internal power struggle at the fledgling startup that led to Altman becoming OpenAI's CEO. Musk also wanted the job, according to emails revealed as part of the court case, but grew frustrated after two other OpenAI co-founders said he would hold too much power as a major shareholder and chief executive if the startup succeeded in its goal to achieve better-than-human AI known as artificial general intelligence, or AGI. Musk has long voiced concerns about how advanced forms of AI could threaten humanity.

"The current structure provides you with a path where you end up with unilateral absolute control over the AGI," said a 2017 email to Musk from co-founders Ilya Sutskever and Greg Brockman.

"You stated that you don't want to control the final AGI, but during this negotiation, you've shown to us that absolute control is extremely important to you." In the same email, titled "Honest Thoughts," Sutskever and Brockman also voiced concerns about Altman's desire to be CEO and whether he was motivated by "political goals." □



## Marriott Aruba Surf Club PLATINUM SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$34,000  
2 Bed Oceanside \$24,000  
2 Bed Ocean view \$22,500  
2 Bed Garden view \$17,500  
3 Bed Ocean view \$34,000  
WK 51 Ocean view \$65,000  
WK 52 Ocean View \$65,000  
WK 7 and 14 - all views

## GOLD SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$18,000  
2 Bed Oceanside \$14,000  
2 Bed Ocean view \$13,500  
2 Bed Garden view \$12,000  
3 Bed Ocean view \$30,000

## Marriott Aruba Ocean Club PLATINUM SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$45,000  
2 Bed Ocean view \$29,000  
1 Bed Ocean front \$21,000  
1 Bed Ocean View \$17,000

## GOLD SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$20,500  
2 Bed Ocean view \$15,000  
1 Bed Oceanfront \$13,000  
1 Bed Ocean View \$11,500

\*\* Destination Points \$4.50 per point

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# Commanders walk away with a victory despite Saints' late-game rally

**By The Associated Press**  
**NEW ORLEANS (AP) —**

Jayden Daniels threw two first-half touchdown passes to Terry McLaurin, and the Washington Commanders narrowly held off a rally by Spencer Rattler and the Saints, winning 20-19 on Sunday when New Orleans failed on a 2-point conversion with no time left.

Daniels, returning to play in Louisiana a year after winning the Heisman Trophy with LSU, completed 25 of 31 passes for 226 yards. He also ran for 66 yards, highlighted by a first-down scramble on third-and-14 to set up a third-quarter field goal by the recently signed Greg Joseph that put the Commanders (9-5) ahead 17-0.

But Rattler relieved starting quarterback Jake Haener and nearly carried the Saints (5-9) to victory. After Joseph missed a 54-yard field goal with 1:55 to go, Rattler led a 56-yard drive and threw a 1-yard TD pass to Foster Moreau as time expired.

**CHIEFS 21, BROWNS 7 CLEVELAND (AP) —** Patrick Mahomes threw two touchdown passes before leaving in the fourth quarter with an ankle injury, Xavier Worthy ran for a score Kansas City finally didn't have to sweat out the final minutes with a victory over mistake-prone Cleveland.

Mahomes connected for TDs in the first half with Juju Smith-Schuster and Noah Gray as the Chiefs (13-1) built a 21-0 lead and then slogged their way through an ugly second half.

The defending Super Bowl champions have 10 wins by seven points or less, with six coming on the game's final play.

Mahomes didn't finish the game, leaving in the fourth quarter when he hurt his left ankle while being tackled. Carson Wentz replaced him for the final 5:23. Mahomes finished 19 of 38 for 159 yards. The Browns (3-11) tried to put up a fight, but had six turnovers. Other than a 62-yard TD run from Jerome Ford, Cleveland had few offensive highlights and too many self-inflicted miscues.

Jameis Winston threw more three interceptions — two in the end zone to give him



**New Orleans Saints tight end Juwan Johnson (83) missed a two point conversion in the second half of an NFL football game against the Washington Commanders in New Orleans, Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024.**

**Associated Press**

eight in his last three games — and the Browns had two fumbles. The five turnovers made things much easier on Mahomes and the Chiefs, not that they needed a lot of help.

**BENGALS 37, TITANS 27 NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —** Joe Burrow threw for 271 yards with three touchdowns for the franchise record with 36 this season and Cincinnati improved their faint playoff hopes by thumping Tennessee in a sloppy game.

The Bengals (6-8) notched the 400th regular-season win in franchise history. They still need to win out to extend their streak of winning seasons to four straight no matter where they wind up in the AFC playoff chase.

They came in without starting defensive tackle Sheldon Rankins and lost end Sam Hubbard to an injured knee after he caught a 2-yard TD pass.

It didn't matter as the Bengals turned six turnovers into 24 straight points capped by Geno Smith's 39-yard pick-6 in the third. The Bengals missed out on more points with a 61-yard fumble return for a TD except Jordan Battle fumbled just before crossing the goal line for a touchback

in the third quarter. The Titans (3-11) benched Will Levis after his NFL-high fourth pick-6 this season and fourth turnover of the game. Mason Rudolph looked ready to lead a rally until he was picked off by Josh Newton.

Tennessee lost its third straight and dropped to 1-6 at home in coach Brian Callahan's debut season and first game against his old boss, Bengals coach Zac Taylor.

**COWBOYS 30, PANTHERS 14 CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —** Cooper Rush threw for 214 yards and a career-high three touchdown passes, Dallas forced four Bryce Young turnovers and sacked the second-year quarterback six times as the Cowboys defeated the Panthers for their third win in the past four games.

CeeDee Lamb had nine catches for 116 yards, including a 14-yard touchdown reception and Rico Dowdle ran for a career high 149 yards on 25 carries to become the first undrafted running back to surpass 100 yards rushing in three straight games since Houston's Arian Foster.

Young, who had shown improvement in recent weeks,

finished 19 of 28 for 219 yards with a career-long 83-yard touchdown toss to rookie Jalen Coker and also ran for a score. But the second-year quarterback fumbled twice and threw two interceptions to fall to 4-21 as an NFL starter.

The Panthers came in as the favorite for the first time in nearly two full years, but it was all Cowboys (6-8) for most of the game.

Lamb had eight receptions for 104 yards in the first half as Dallas took a 10-0 lead. The Cowboys appeared ready to add to it late in the second quarter, but Rush mishandled a snap and fumbled at the Carolina 17. On the next play from scrimmage, Young found Coker along the right sideline for an 83-yard touchdown pass, the longest of his career to pull the Panthers (3-11) within three with 31 seconds left. But that was as close as the Panthers would get.

**JETS 32, JAGUARS 25 JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) —** Davante Adams caught nine passes from Aaron Rodgers for 198 yards and two touchdowns — all in the second half — and New York rallied to beat Jacksonville to end a four-game skid.

Adams hauled in a 71-yard TD pass with 3:24 remaining and a 41-yarder that set up Breece Hall's 1-yard plunge with 1:05 to play. In between, he made a circus catch along the sideline for a first down.

It was vintage Adams, who became the 12th player in NFL history with 100 receiving touchdowns. And vintage Rodgers, who threw for 289 yards and three scores as the Jets (4-10) topped 30 points for the first time this season. The 41-year-old quarterback also led New York with 45 yards rushing.

Adams' 100th TD grab came on a 1-yard fade route in the third quarter. No. 101 was even more impressive. He streaked down the middle of the field, running past linebacker Devin Lloyd and seeing no safety help from Darnell Savage until it was too late.

Adams was completely uncovered in the flat for the 41-yarder and then tackled at the 1. The Jets probably should have taken a knee from there, forced Jacksonville to use its remaining timeouts and kicked a short field goal to win it. But Hall's plunge gave the Jaguars (3-11) a chance late. □



# Las Vegas already seems part of the NBA world, which makes expansion decision feel inevitable

By TIM REYNOLDS  
AP Basketball Writer

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Milwaukee coach Doc Rivers has heard and seen enough. He's convinced there will be an NBA team in Las Vegas.

"Yeah, they're going to get it," Rivers said.

It's no secret that when NBA expansion happens — nobody has revealed exactly when that will be — Las Vegas will be at the front of the list of candidate cities to get one of what will probably be two new clubs, pushing the league to 32 franchises. And given the way the NBA Cup and other NBA events have been received, probably nobody would say that coming to the Nevada desert full-time would be a bad idea.

"I think it would be great," said Oklahoma City star Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, whose team will play Milwaukee in the NBA Cup final on Tuesday night. "The Cup is here. Summer League is here. We can feel the basketball culture in Vegas as players when we come. I think it's only a matter of time. The city really embraces basketball, and they deserve it for sure."

LeBron James has said multiple times that he wants to be part of the ownership group when the league expands to Vegas. Commissioner Adam Silver said earlier this year that Las Vegas would "definitely" be a candidate when it's time to discuss expansion, which is believed to be the next major item on the league's to-do list. The city already hosts the league's annual Summer League extravaganza, has been an All-Star host, now has the NBA Cup final four and one of the WNBA's top franchises in the Las Vegas Aces.

Put it this way: In a city where no wager is a sure thing, betting on Vegas to join the NBA would come pretty close.

"Nothing's been set, and we haven't even determined whether to expand yet," Silver said in Novem-



Milwaukee Bucks head coach Doc Rivers, center, yells during the first half of a semifinal game against the Atlanta Hawks in the NBA Cup basketball tournament Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

ber, the last time he spoke at a news conference on the expansion topic. "My sense is that if we ex-

panded, we'd do an even number, because then we might have to do some adjustments in the conferenc-

es. But I think it makes sense to have two conferences of 16 teams if we were to do it. There have been times in the past in the NBA when we had an odd number, so it's possible. But I think we most likely, if we were to expand, would look to expand to two cities."

Seattle is another city that everybody mentions as a top candidate for expansion. Mexico City could be a serious candidate at some point. Louisville, Kansas City, Nashville and Montreal are believed to have investment groups that want to talk about getting into the league.

Las Vegas, the gambling hub of the U.S., was once essentially off-limits to pro sports leagues. Obviously,

that is no longer the case. Vegas has a two-time WNBA title-winning team in the Aces and that league's best player in A'ja Wilson, a Stanley Cup winner in hockey's Vegas Golden Knights, the NFL's Raiders and is expected to have Major League Baseball when the Athletics' relocation is likely to be completed in time for the 2028 season. And with Summer League and the NBA Cup, it already feels like the city is truly part of the NBA.

The city has obvious distractions — glitz, glamour, gambling, nightlife. Those don't get in the way of players handling business when in town for games, Bucks guard Damian Lillard said. □



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### Culinary Voyage

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French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.



### Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

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Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

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### Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐



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